Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1. (currently amended) A stable, uniform, and alkali metal free aqueous dispersion consisting essentially of a dispersion in water of component (A), an ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer containing 15-35 wt% methacrylic acid based on total weight of copolymer, and component (B), ammonia in an amount required for neutralizing 110-150% of the carboxyl groups of component (A).

Claim 2. (currently amended) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 wherein the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer contains 18-30 wt% methacrylic acid based on total weight of copolymer.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 wherein the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer contains 15-25 wt% methacrylic acid based on total weight of copolymer.

Claim 4. (original) The aqueous dispersion of claims 1, 2, or 3 wherein the ammonia is present in an amount sufficient to neutralize 120-140% of the carboxyl groups.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The aqueous dispersion of claim 1 wherein the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer comprises 5-50 wt% of the dispersion based on total weight of dispersion and the copolymer has a melt flow rate of 50-2000 grams/10 minutes at 190°C/2160 gram load.

Claim 6. (currently amended) The aqueous dispersion of claim 3 wherein the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer comprises 5-50 wt% of the dispersion based on total weight of dispersion and the copolymer has a melt flow rate of 50-2000 grams/10 minutes at 190°C/2160 gram load.

Claim 7. (original) The aqueous dispersion of claim 4 wherein the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer has a melt flow rate of 60-1500 grams/10 minutes at 190°C/2160 gram load.

Claim 8. (original) The aqueous dispersion of claim 5 wherein the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer has a melt flow rate of 60-1500 grams/10 minutes at 190°C/2160 gram load.

Claim 9. (original) A coated substrate obtained by applying the aqueous dispersion of claim 1, 2 or 3 to the substrate for coating, then drying to form a coated substrate.

Claim 10. (original) The coated substrate wherein the substrate is a film.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A process for making a stable, uniform, and alkali metal free aqueous dispersion of ethylene-methacrylic acid consisting essentially of mixing an ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer containing 15-35 wt% methacrylic acid based on total weight of copolymer in water in the presence of sufficient ammonia to neutralize 110 to 150% of the carboxylic acid groups in the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer for a sufficient time to uniformly disperse the ethylene-methacrylic acid copolymer in the water.

Claim 12. (original) The process of claim 11 wherein the mixing is carried out at a temperature of about 90 to about 150°C for about 10 minutes to about 2 hours.